

side door that had been jammed by a ramp. Maneuvering the ramp into place, he unhooked the restraining belts and dragged the wheelchair—and the now terrified woman passenger—from the vehicle. Once free from the smoke, Carrier Polnow located the controls on the chair and engaged them to move the woman to safety.

Acts of bravery and fortitude such as this should not go unnoticed. Carrier Polnow's heroism has led him to be recognized by the National Association of Letter Carriers with the National Central Hero Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Carrier Polnow, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

#### CONGRATULATING ARLENE COOK

#### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arlene Cook, for her commendable service to the State of Ohio and for earning the William L. Howard Award. This award is the highest a civilian can receive from Ohio's Fire Service, for outstanding service to the fire forces.

As a private citizen, Arlene has dedicated the vast majority of her adult and professional life to the safety and security of the citizens of the 7th Congressional District and Ohio.

Arlene has 24 years of State Service with 3 of those years in Florida and 21 in Ohio. Specifically, she spent 8 years with the former Arson Bureau, which is now the Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau, and 13 years as the administrative assistant to the State Fire Marshal. She also serves as the Administrative Assistant to the State Fire Commission.

Arlene has had a long and distinguished career with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, and I congratulate her on receiving the William L. Howard Award, as well as thank her for her dedication to the safety of Ohioans.

For these reasons, Arlene Cook deserves our gratitude and special thanks.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. DECOTA

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of William R. DeCota, the Director of Aviation for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Bill was one of our Nation's great aviation leaders.

I knew Bill DeCota for the last decade. When I became the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee I held a hearing at the World Trade Center on July 16, 2001, at the request of Bill DeCota and Neil Levin, Director of the New York Port Authority.

During that visit to New York City, Bill and Neil invited me to tour the three major New York City airports. I knew Neil Levin when he was Legislative Director for Senator Al

D'Amato and I served as Chief of Staff for Senator Paula Hawkins. After a hearing in the Port Authority chambers, they hosted my wife, Pat, and me at a luncheon in a Port Authority conference room adjacent to the Windows on the World Restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center.

Levin and Port Authority employee, who assisted with the hearing in July, were in that very same conference room in the World Trade Center on September 11, and lost their lives.

As fate would have it, Bill DeCota was at a conference in Montreal, Canada, on September 11th and survived the terrible events of that day.

In the ensuing years, Bill and I often talked about the randomness of life. It is therefore striking that Bill died suddenly last Friday, September 11, 2009, eight years later.

It must be noted that in the months and years after 9/11, Bill's stewardship of the world's busiest airport system was truly the greatest of any airport director.

Bill joined the Port Authority as a financial analyst in 1982 and quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Manager of the Aviation Department's Business and Financial Services Division, Assistant Director of Aviation for Business and Properties, and Deputy Director of Aviation.

He was named Director of Aviation in December 1999. As Director, Bill was responsible for John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, and LaGuardia Airports, and later Stewart Airport—which together comprise the world's largest aviation system. He was also responsible for Teterboro Airport.

In that capacity, Bill oversaw the largest airport improvement program in U.S. history.

Bill was recognized as an expert in aviation and was an active advocate for airport issues on Capitol Hill and in the business community.

His expertise in managing airport congestion through prudent airport expansion, cutting-edge technologies and demand management was widely recognized in the aviation industry.

Bill was also strongly committed to the community and was actively involved in numerous service organizations.

He was a member of the Advisory Board of CUNY's Aviation Institute at York College, President of the Queens Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Board of the Regional Business Partnership, the Airport Development Council and the Business Advisory Council of SUNY Farmingdale, among others.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, and an M.B.A. from the University of Georgia.

He resided in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

True to how he lived his life, funeral arrangements for Bill will be private. His family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick, New Jersey, which is a nonprofit organization that runs a soup kitchen and culinary school to train local people for food-service careers.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family. Bill DeCota and his expertise and contributions to aviation will be greatly missed.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$1,000,000 is necessary to address the challenges of sample preparation and detection/diagnosis of biological warfare agents. The ASP technology has the ability to process both environmental and clinical biological samples for subsequent analysis on both nucleic acid and/or immunoassay detection/diagnostic systems, and when mated to currently fielded and new detection systems will enhance warfighter capability to detect and identify hundreds of potential targets simultaneously within a single analysis on a single detection/diagnostic platform.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM WAR VETERANS EVENT

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege